

plurality of targets;

a wireless network system operable for communicating wirelessly with a plurality of wireless communication units, said computer network server being in communication with said wireless network system, each of said plurality of wireless communication units being operable for communication with said wireless network, each of said plurality of client computers being operable for requesting said computer network server to provide location information relating to said one or more of said plurality of targets with which said client is associated.

52. The monitoring system of Claim 51, wherein:

said computer network server is operable for communicating with said plurality of client computers through a world-wide computer network.

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53. The monitoring system of Claim 51, further comprising:

said plurality of client computers being operable for producing a map showing thereon a geographic picture of one or more of said plurality of targets.

54. The monitoring system of Claim 51, wherein said plurality of wireless communication units further comprise:

a plurality of inputs for receiving status information related to a respective target.

55. The monitoring system of Claim 54, wherein said plurality of wireless communication units further comprise:

a plurality of outputs for supplying signals to said respective target.

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56. The monitoring system of Claim 55, wherein said plurality of wireless communication units further comprise:

transmitter and receiver electronics for two-way communication with said wireless network

system related to said plurality of inputs and said plurality of outputs and said location information.

57. The monitoring system of Claim 56, wherein said plurality of wireless communication further comprise:

programmable electronics related to said plurality of inputs and said plurality of outputs.

58. The monitoring system of Claim 56, wherein:

each of said plurality of client computers being operable for selectively communicating with all or with specific of said one or more of said plurality of targets with which said client is associated.

59. The monitoring system of Claim 56, further comprising:

said database being operable for storing information for each of said plurality of targets that includes definitions of inputs and outputs for a respective interface between each of said plurality of targets and each corresponding wireless communication unit.

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60. The monitoring system of Claim 56, further comprising:

said database being operable for containing a list of ingoing and outgoing messages.

61. The monitoring system of Claim 51, further comprising:

said plurality of wireless communication units including a receiver/transmitter, a modem, and
electronics for encoding said location information for said modem.

40 ~~29~~ The monitoring system of Claim 51, further comprising:

at least a portion of said plurality of targets being a plurality of transport vessels, said database being operable for storing vessel location information.

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65. The monitoring system of Claim 51, further comprising:

a target interface for each of said plurality of wireless communication units for communicating electrical signals to said wireless communication unit related to said target.

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64. The monitoring system of Claim 63, further comprising:

said plurality of client computers are each operable for communicating with said computer network server relating to said electrical signals for said one or more of said plurality of targets with which said client is associated.

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65. The monitoring system of Claim 51, further comprising:

a microcontroller for operating said wireless communication unit.

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66. The monitoring system of Claim 51, further comprising:

at least a portion of said plurality of targets are vehicles,

each vehicle having an electrical system connected to said target interface,

said plurality of client computers being operable for sending an electrical signal to said electrical system of said vehicle through said target interface for said one or more of said plurality of targets with which said client is associated.

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67. The monitoring system of Claim 51, further comprising:

at least a portion of said plurality of targets are vehicles,

each vehicle having an electrical system connected to said target interface,

said plurality of client computers being operable for detecting an electrical signal from said vehicle through said target interface, said wireless network system, and said computer network server in accordance with a description for each said target interface stored within said database.